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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A developing apparatus comprising:

a developer container which contains a first
developer provided with a first charging polarity and
5 a second developer provided with a second charging
polarity opposite to the first charging polarity;

a developer bearing member which bears the first
and the second developers;

layer forming means which forms a first layer
10 substantially including the first developer, on the
developer carrying member and forms a second layer
including the first and the second developers, on the
first layer; and

separating means which is provided on a
15 downstream side of the layer forming means and on an
upstream side of a developing part in a developer
carrying and conveying direction of the developer
bearing member and separates the second layer from
the developer bearing member.

20

2. A developing apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the separating means allows passage of
the first layer and regulates passage of the second
layer.

25

3. A developing apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the separating means is a regulating

member which is pressed by the developer carrying member and regulates thickness of the first layer on the developer carrying member.

5 4. A developing apparatus according to claim 1,
 wherein a color of the first developer and a
 color of the second developer are different.

 5. A developing apparatus according to claim 1,
10 wherein, when the first layer and the second
 layer are formed on the developer bearing member, a
 potential difference is provided between the layer
 forming means and the developer bearing member.

15 6. A developing apparatus according to claim 5,
 wherein, when the first layer and the second
 layer are formed on the developer bearing member, a
 polarity of a potential, which is obtained by
 deducting a potential of the developer carrying
20 member from a potential of the layer forming means,
 is the same as the first charging polarity.

 7. A developing apparatus according to claim 5,
 wherein a polarity of the potential difference
25 is switched, whereby the layer forming means forms a
 third layer, which substantially includes the second
 developer, on the developer bearing member and forms

a fourth layer, which includes the first and the second developers, on the third layer.

5 8. A developing apparatus according to claim 7,
 wherein the separating means separates the
fourth layer from the developer bearing member.

 9. A developing apparatus according to claim 1,
 wherein the layer forming means is a rotary
10 member which is rotatable in contact with the
developer bearing member, and the rotary member
carries the first and the second developers on a
surface thereof and rotates with a peripheral speed
difference with respect to the surface of the
15 developer bearing member.

 10. A developing apparatus according to claim 9,
 wherein the rotary member includes a surface
layer of a foam having conductivity and can contain
20 the first and the second developers in vacancies of
the foam.

 11. A developing apparatus according to any one
of claims 1 to 3,
25 wherein the separating means is a rigid body or
an elastic body which is brought into abutment
against the developer bearing member.

12. A developing apparatus according to claim 3,
wherein, in the case in which it is assumed that
a radius of the developer bearing member is R, a
curvature radius of an inflected part formed in a
5 developer layer thickness regulating part of the
regulating member is r, and an NE length, which is a
distance from a contacting part of the developer
bearing member and the regulating member to the
inflected part, is x,

$$\sqrt{(R+r)^2+(x+r)^2} - R \leq 550 \mu\text{m}$$

10 is satisfied.

13. A developing apparatus according to claim 3
or 12,

15 wherein the curvature radius of the inflected
part is 0.5 mm or less and a contacting pressure of
the regulating member and the developer bearing
member is 5 gf/cm or more and 100 gf/cm or less.

20 14. A developing apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the developing apparatus is detachably
mountable to an image forming apparatus main body.

25 15. A developing apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein the developing apparatus is provided in
a process cartridge together with an image bearing

member on which a developer image is formed by the developing apparatus, and the process cartridge is detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus main body.

5

16. A developing apparatus comprising:

5 a developer container which contains a first developer provided with a first charging polarity and a second developer provided with a second charging polarity opposite to the first charging polarity;

10 a developer bearing member which bears the first and the second developers;

 layer forming means which forms a first layer, which substantially includes the first developer, on the developer bearing member and forms a second layer, which includes the first and the second developers, on the first layer; and

15 a regulating member which is provided on a downstream side of the layer forming means and on an upstream side of a developing position in a developer bearing and conveying direction of the developer bearing member and regulates thickness of a layer of a developer on the developer carrying member, the regulating member including an inflected part in a developer regulating part,

20 wherein a curvature radius of the inflected part is 0.5 mm or less, and a contacting pressure of the

regulating member and the developer bearing member is
5 gf/cm or more and 100 gf/cm or less.

17. A developing apparatus according to claim
5 16,

wherein a color of the first developer and a
color of the second developer are different.

18. A developing apparatus according to claim
10 16,

wherein, when the first layer and the second
layer are formed on the developer bearing member, a
potential difference is provided between the layer
forming means and the developer bearing member.

15 19. A developing apparatus according to claim
18,

wherein, when the first layer and the second
layer are formed on the developer bearing member, a
20 polarity of a potential, which is obtained by
deducting a potential of the developer bearing member
from a potential of the layer forming means, is the
same as the first charging polarity.

25 20. A developing apparatus according to claim
18,

wherein a polarity of the potential difference

is switched, whereby the layer forming means forms a third layer, which substantially includes the second developer, on the developer bearing member and forms a fourth layer, which includes the first and the
5 second developers, on the third layer.

21. A developing apparatus according to claim 16,

wherein the layer forming means is a rotary
10 member which is rotatable in contact with the developer bearing member, and the rotary member carries the first and the second developers on a surface thereof and rotates with a peripheral speed difference with respect to the surface of the
15 developer bearing member.

22. A developing apparatus according to claim 21,

wherein the rotary member includes a surface
20 layer of a foam having conductivity and can contain the first and the second developers in vacancies of the foam.

23. A developing apparatus according to claim 16,

wherein the regulating means is a rigid body or an elastic body which is brought into abutment

against the developer bearing member.

24. A developing apparatus according to claim
16,

5 wherein, in the case in which it is assumed that
a radius of the developer bearing member is R, a
curvature radius of the inflected part is r, and an
NE length, which is a distance from a contacting part
of the developer bearing member and the regulating
10 member to the inflected part, is x,

$$\sqrt{(R+r)^2+(x+r)^2} - R \leq 550 \mu m$$

is satisfied.

25. A developing apparatus according to claim
15 16,

wherein the developing apparatus is detachably
mountable to an image forming apparatus main body.

26. A developing apparatus according to claim
20 16,

wherein the developing apparatus is provided in
a process cartridge together with an image bearing
member on which a developer image is formed by the
developing apparatus, and the process cartridge is
25 detachably mountable to an image forming apparatus
main body.

27. An image forming apparatus comprising:
a plurality of developers, each of the plurality
of developers comprising:

5 a developer container which contains a first
developer of a first color provided with a first
charging polarity and a second developer of a second
color provided with a second charging polarity
opposite to the first charging polarity;

10 a developer bearing member which bears the first
and the second developers;

layer forming means which forms a first layer,
which substantially includes the first developer, on
the developer carrying member and forms a second
layer, which includes the first and the second
15 developers, on the first layer; and

separating means which is provided on a
downstream side of the layer forming means and on an
upstream side of a developing part in a developer
carrying and conveying direction of the developer
20 carrying member and separates the second layer from
the developer carrying member.

28. An image forming apparatus according to
claim 27,

25 wherein a developer image of four colors is
formed on a member to have an image transferred
thereon using the plurality of developing apparatuses.

29. An image forming apparatus according to claim 27,

wherein the image forming apparatus includes a plurality of image bearing members corresponding to the plurality of developing apparatuses, two kinds of developer images of different colors are formed on any one of the plurality of image bearing members by any one of the plurality of developing apparatuses, two kinds of developer images of different colors are formed on another of the plurality of image bearing members by another of the plurality of developing apparatuses, and a developer image of four colors is formed on the member to have an image transferred thereon.

30. An image forming apparatus according to claim 28 or 29,

wherein the image forming apparatus includes the member to have an image transferred thereon, which is an intermediate transferring member, and the image forming apparatus further includes charging means which adjusts a charging polarity of a developer on the intermediate transferring member.

31. An image forming apparatus according to claim 30,

wherein the charging means also functions as

transferring means which transfers a developer image from the intermediate transferring member onto a recording material.